



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Metropolitan Boston – Northeast Regional Office

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Lieutenant Governor



SEMS DocID 594229

BOB DURAND
Secretary
LAUREN A. LISS
Commissioner

October 13, 1999

183 Essex Street
Middleton, MA 01949

Attn: Shirley R. Kelley

RE: MIDDLETON
Essex Street Area
Private Well Investigation

Dear Resident,

As you may already know, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently completed a cleanup action at the former American Glue and Resin site located at 40 School Street in Middleton, Massachusetts. As part of this cleanup, EPA removed a total of 511 drums containing both liquid and solid waste. As a follow-up to EPA's cleanup activities, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) conducted additional investigations at the American Glue site. These investigations included the installation and sampling of groundwater monitoring wells.

The sampling conducted by DEP revealed the presence of groundwater contamination in the vicinity of the American Glue site. The primary contaminant of concern is trichloroethylene. This chemical is most commonly used as a degreasing solvent, and is one in a family of chemicals classified as "Volatile Organic Compounds" or "VOCs."

At this time, DEP does not know the full extent of VOC contamination emanating from the American Glue site. However, DEP's investigation did reveal that groundwater from the American Glue site may be moving toward the Essex Street area. While DEP does not have reason to believe that contaminated groundwater from the American Glue site has reached Essex Street, we are interested in sampling residential wells along the north side of Essex Street (the wells closest to the site) in order to confirm that site-related contaminants are not present at these locations. DEP is willing to analyze these private well samples for the presence of VOCs, and will provide the results to the owners of all homes where wells have been tested.

DEP's primary concern is to ensure that homeowners are not being exposed to unhealthful levels of chemical contaminants. Fortunately, effective and affordable filters exist to treat most VOC contaminants. If contamination is found in your well, our scientists and engineers can advise you on the most effective treatment options. *If you did not cause or*

This information is available in alternate format by calling our ADA Coordinator at (617) 574-6872.

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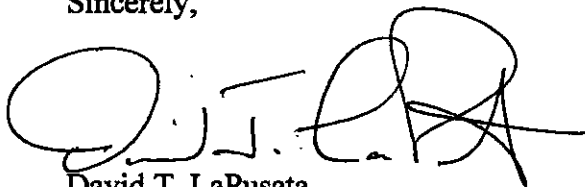
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contribute to the contamination present in your well, it is not our intention or policy to consider you a "liable" party for an area-wide problem, and your home address will not appear on any state list of contaminated sites.

The Middleton Board of Health has informed DEP that you may have a drinking water well servicing your home. Enclosed, please find a "Private Well Information" questionnaire. Please take a few moments and fill out the questionnaire as completely as possible and return it to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection at the letterhead address. The information that you provide will help in DEP's ongoing investigation of the area.

If you would like to have your well water tested, or if you would like to speak with someone from this office regarding this matter, please contact David LaPusata at (978) 661-7717. You can also obtain more information on problems of this nature by visiting our web site at www.state.ma.us/dep/nero/bwsc, clicking on "Community Concerns." We look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,



David T. LaPusata
Environmental Analyst
Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup



Stephen M. Johnson
Chief, Site Management Section
Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup

cc: Mr. Leo Cormier, Health Agent, Board of Health, Town of Middleton, 195 N.
Main Street, Middleton, MA 01949
Ms. Nancy Jones, Chairman, Board of Selectman, Town of Middleton, 48 S. Main Street,
Middleton, MA 01949
Ms. Cheryl Auterio, P.O. Box 202, North Reading, MA 01864
Mr. Gilberto Irizarry, OSC, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Site
Evaluation & Response Section I (HBR), JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA
02203-2211
DEP, BWSC, FMCRA, 1 Winter Street, Boston, MA 02108
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